

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 116, 126–129, 133–134, 140–143, 159–170, 177–182, 188–197, 200, 204, 208–232, 234–235, and 239 will be pending. Claims 1–115, 117–125, 130–132, 135–139, 144–158, 171–176, 183–187, 198–199, 201–203, 205–207, 233, 236–238, and 240–241 are cancelled, and claims 116, 126, 133, 141, 142, 166, 177, 179, 200, 204, 208, 212, 221, 234, and 235 have been amended. Basis for the claim amendments may be found, for example, in previously filed claims. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 140–143, 159–170, 177, 178, 181, 182, 188–197, 229–232, and 239.

Applicants also note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 116, 126–129, 133, 134, 179, 180, 200, 204, 208–228, 234, and 235 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten each of claims 116, 126, 133, 179, 200, 204, 208, 212, 221, 234, and 235 in independent form. Additional amendments have been made to some claims, e.g., to claims 141, 142, 166, and 177, to more clearly describe the invention. Claims 127–129 are dependent on independent claim 126, claim 134 is dependent on independent claim 133, claim 180 is dependent on independent claim 179, claims 209–211 are dependent on independent claim 208, claims 213–220 are dependent on independent claim 212, and claims 222–228 are dependent on independent claim 221; these claims are patentable in that they depend on allowable claims.

A typographical error on page 13, line 4 of the application, noted by the Examiner, has been corrected.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 112–115, 117–125, 130–132, 144–146, 151–154, 156–158, 171–176, 198, 199, 201–203, 205–207, 233 and 236 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as directly anticipated by Chu et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,906,951 (“Chu”). The rejection of these claims is moot, in view of the cancellation, without prejudice, of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617)570-1806.

Applicants believe that no fee is necessitated by the filing of this amendment. However, if any fee is due, please charge said fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 44,381

Tel. No.: (617) 570-1806
Fax No.: (617) 523-1231
2357087

Natasha C. Us
Natasha C. Us
Attorney for the Applicants
Goodwin | Procter LLP
Exchange Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02109